

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KNESSET CANDIDATURE LISTS

SUMMARY: ALL TIME HIGH OF 22 KNESSET CANDIDATURE LISTS WERE PRESENTED BY SEPTEMBER 25 DEADLINE QUALIFYING FORNOMPETION IN OCTOBER 30 ELECTION. UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF LISTS IMPLIES POSSIBLE DISPERSION OF VOTES AWAY FROM A MAJOR PARTIES ALTHOUGH NEW PARTIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF BLACK PANTHERS, STAND NO CHANCE OF GAINING KNESSET REPRESENTATION. NEXT KNESSET WILL INCLUDE SLIGHTLY MORE YOUTH, WOMEN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY THAN IN AST, BUT TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUPS WILL CONTINUE TO DOMINATE POLITICAL SCENE, APPROXIMATELY THIRTY PERCENT OF NEXT KNESSET WILL BE COMPOSED OF NEW MEMBERS. DESPITE CLEAR LACK OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SELECTION OF KNESSET CANDIDATES, PROCESS OF REVITALIZING PARTY REPRESENTATION IS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE, PARTLY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES, AS WELL AS RESPONSE TO PRESSURES OF VARIOUS GROUPS TO SECURE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICAL LIFE. END SUMMARY.

1. RECORD 22 KNESSET CANDIDATURE LISTS (BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPARATE AIRGRAM) WERE SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS PARTIES AND BLOCS TO CENTRAL KNESSET ELECTION COMMITTEE IN TRADITIONAL LAST MINUTE RUSH TO MEET SEPTEMBER 25 DEADLINE.

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ELEVEN OF THESE GROUPINGS HAD REPRESENTATION IN OUTGOING

KNESSET WHILE OTHER HALF ARE CONTENDING FOR FIRST TIME. NEW LISTS, WITH EXCEPTION OF BLACK PANTHERS, HAVE VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF GAINING REPRESENTATION IN NEXT KNESSET (THE EIGHTH), BUT LARGE NUMBER OF CONTENDERS WILL CAUSE SOMEWHAT GREATER THAN USUAL DISPERSION OF VOTES.

2. EIGHTY KNESSET PROMISES TO BE SOMEWHAT YOUNGER WITH SLIGHTLY GREATER REPRESENTATION OF YOUTH, WOMEN, AND SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY THAN IN OUTGOING KNESSET. MOST ISRAELI OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THERE WILL BE AN ESTIMATED 34-42 FIRST TERM KNESSET MEMBERS REPRESENTING SIGNIFICANT TURNOVER IN REPRESENTATION OF MAJOR PARTIES. ALIGNMENT KNESSET DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE 15-20 NEW FACES.

3. ALIGNMENT LIST IS ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO AGREED KEY PROVIDING THAT FOR EVERY GROUP OF SEVEN CANDIDATES, MAPAI FACTION OF LABOR PARTY HAS FOUR; RAFI AND AHDUT AVODAH FACTIONS OF LABOR PARTY HAVE ONE EACH; AND MAPAM PARTY HAS ONE. MAPAI LIST WAS CHOSEN BY MONINATIONS COMMITTEE HEADED BY SAPIR WHEREAS RAFI, AHDUT AVODAH AND MAPAM HELD SECRET VOTING TO DETERMINE THEIR CANDIDATES. LABOR PARTY LEEADERSHIP APPEARS IN SAME ORDER AS ON 1969 LIST -- MEIR, ALLON, EBAN, DAYAN AND SAPIR. SECRETARY GENERAL MEIR TALMI HEADS MAPAM REPRESENTATION WITH VETERAN LEADERS MEIR YAARI AND YAACOV HAZEN ACCEPTING HONORARY POSITIONS AT END OF LIST. FOUR MAPAI MINISTERS (SHAPIRO, BAR LEV, GVATI AND SHAREF) AGREED TO ACCEPT HONORARY POSITIONS AT BOTTOM OF LIST IN ORDER TO OPEN UP MORE POSITIONS FOR NEW FACES. BUT MAPAI MINISTERS SAPIR AND EBAN WILL RETAIN KNESSET SEATS SINCE, AS WAS EXLLICITY POINTED OUT BY SECRETARY GENERAL YADLIN, IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, ONLY KNESSET MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTERSHIP. MINISTER OF POLICE HILLEL ALSO INSISTED ON RETAINING KNESSET SEAT. NOTEWORTHY THAT THREE OF THE MAPAI DOVES WHO ARE CLOSE TO SAPIR -- ELIAV, OFER AND AHARON YADLIN -- GRE CDFDWMPYOVED THEIR POSITIONS ON LIST COMPARED TO 1969.

4. MAJOR NEW ADDITIONS TO ALIGNMENT LIST INCLUDE RABIN, YARIV, FOEMER AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK ESTHER HERLITZ, CONFIDENTIAL

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RABBI MENAHEM HACHOHEN OF RELIGIOUS WORKERS MOVEMENT, YOUTH ACTIVIST MIKA HARISH, AND EDUCATION MINISTRY ARAB ADVISER MAHMOUD ABASSI. AFTER MUCH PUBLICITY REGARDING INTENTION TO INCLUDE ARAB FOR FIRST TIME ON LIST, ABASSI WAS GIVEN UNCERTAIN FIFTY-NINTH PLACE. AMONG SURPRISES ON LIST ARE PRESENCE OF LABOR MINISTER ALMOGI, SLATED TO BE MAYOR OF HAIFA, WHOM SOME HAD THOUGHT WOULD RELINQUISH HIS KNESSET SEAT, AND ABSENCE OF FORMER LABOR PARTY DEPUTY

SECRETARY GENERAL MORDECHAI SURKISS WHO RESIGNED
HIS POSITION LAST WEEK AFTER BEING DEFEATED IN SECRET VOTE BY
HIS OWN RAFI FACTION.

5. NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) RESOLVED INTENSE COMPETITION
BY AWARDING FIRST THREE PLACES TO MINISTERS BURG AND WARHIFTIG
AND AMBITIOUS KNESET DELEGATION CHAIRMAN RAFAEL AND BY
DROPPING WELFARE MINISTER HAZANI TO FOURTH PLACE. PARTY
SOURCES IMMEDIATELY STATED THAT PLACEMENT ON KNESSET LIST WILL
NOT NECESSARILY DETERMINE ALLOCATION OF NRP MINISTERSHIPS.
TOVA SANHEDRAI, RELIGIOUS WOMEN'S LEADERS, WAS PERSUADED AT
LAST MOMENT NOT TO FORM SEPARATE LIST ON ASSURANCE THAT HER
LOW THIRTEENTH POSITION ON LIST WAS SAFE, SINCE MINISTERS WOULD
RESIGN THEIR KNESSET SEATS.

6. RIGHTWING BLOC LIKUD PRESENTED LIST WITH ELEVEN NEW NAMES
AMONG FIRST THIRTY-ONE PLACES -- HERUT-3, LIBERALS-5, STATE
LIST, FREE CENTER AND LAND OF ISRAEL MOVEMENT ONE EACH.
AFTER INTENSE BATTLE TO REACH AGREEMENT RESOLVED
EARLIER THIS MONTH, LIKUD HAD LITTLE TROUBLE IN COMPLETING
ITS LIST. OUTSTANDING NEW FACES INCLUDE ARMY HEROES
ARIEL SHARON, AND AVRAHAM YOFFE.

7. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY LIST HEADED BY SAME FIRST
THREE NAMES AS IN 1969 -- KOL, HAUSNER, SHAARI --
FOLLOWED BY HISTADRUT ACTIVIST HILLEL SEIDEL.

8. OTHER LISTS CONTAINED NO SIGNIFICANT SURPRISES.
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